



ACTIVITY: Surfing
CASE: [GSAF 2015.02.09](#)
DATE: Monday February 9, 2015
LOCATION: Shelly Beach, New South Wales. Shelly Beach is 20 miles to the north of Seven Mile Beach.

NAME: Tadashi Nakahara
DESCRIPTION: He was a 41-year-old male, and a father of one. He moved to Ballina two years ago and had been working as a distributor for Webster Surfboards. A friend said Mr Nakahara was living his surfing dream. "He loved surfing. That was his work, that was his life. He was trying to learn everything he could about the surfing industry."

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 09h30, Lismore Airport recorded overcast skies and visibility of 6.2 miles. The air temperature was 69.8°F, dew point 69.8°F, humidity 100%, sea level pressure 30.12 inches and no wind. By 10h00, there were scattered clouds with 6.2 mile visibility. The air had warmed to 71.6°F, dew point 69.8°F, humidity dropped to 94%, and wind was SE at 1.2 mph.

MOON PHASE: Waning Gibbeous, 79% of the Moon was illuminated.

SEA CONDITIONS: Sea surface temperature 76°F, swells 1m/SSE to 1.3m/S. Mean low tide at Shelly Beach occurred at 06h16, mean high tide at 12:22.

ENVIRONMENT: There have been five shark attack scares on the north coast in recent



Tadashi Nakahara

months, as authorities monitor great whites, bull sharks and bronze whalers chasing bait fish, mackerel and whales along the coast.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 50 metres

TIME: Just before 10h00

NARRATIVE: Tadashi Nakahara was with a group of surfers waiting for a wave. He was sitting on his board when the shark came up behind him and grabbed the back of the board and his legs in its mouth. Two surfer who were very close to him rushed him to shore, and two other surfer in the area also paddled in to assist in rendering first aid. The tried to stop the bleeding with tourniquets and performed CPR before paramedics arrived, but the man suffered massive blood loss and died of exsanguination.

INJURY: Fatal. An early report said that both legs were severed, and the shark took half of his board.

SPECIES: Surfers who were in the water at the time said they saw the shadow of the shark and estimated it to be 3.5m-4m in length.

REPORTED BY: Melissa Michaelson

COMMENT: Southern Cross University marine biologist Dr Danny Bucher: "Most shark attacks, the dangerous sharks, makos, great whites, tiger sharks, are migratory species and yes it's possible more whales mean more sharks but the diet would have to be balanced out by dolphins and seals being available." He said humans were not the first choice for sharks but surfers, body boarders and deep water swimmers were most at risk of the exploratory bite, which is often fatal. "They are trying to find out what we are, we are sitting on the surface of the ocean and they are scavengers as well as predators and they like an easy meal," he said. "They think something on the surface is dead prey and they will have an exploratory bite, which is often fatal, but most shark attacks are one bite."